

City of Portland Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Summary

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Protecting Water Quality

When it rains, storwmater that isn't properly managed washes over roofs, streets, and other hard surfaces and can carry oil, pesticides, metals, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants into storm sewers that discharge to rivers and streams. Proper stormwater management reduces pollutants in runoff, reduces stormwater volume, and protects water quality in our rivers and streams.

The City of Portland and Port of Portland both operate storm sewer systems within Portland's urban services boundary. The two jurisdictions, or copermittees, hold a joint stormwater permit issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in accordance with federal Clean Water Act regulations. DEQ issued the first Portland permit in September 1995, renewed it for a second term in March 2004 (with modifications in July 2005), and renewed it for a third term on January 31, 2011. The third-term permit is in effect for five years, until January 30, 2016.

The stormwater permit requires each co-permittee to develop a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) for its area of responsibility. The SWMP identifies the best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented throughout the permit term to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, protect water quality, and satisfy requirements of the Clean Water Act. This fact sheet summarizes the City of Portland's current SWMP (April 1, 2011). The full name of the stormwater permit is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharge Permit. It is referred to as the NPDES permit, MS4 permit, or stormwater permit.

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Portland's Permit Area

The City of Portland's NPDES MS4 stormwater management area includes those areas within Portland's urban services boundary that drain to the MS4. Portland's MS4 area is approximately 15,627 acres.

The city's MS4 permit does not cover:

- Stormwater that flows to sumps
- Stormwater that flows to the combined sewer system
- Natural stream systems
- Direct stormwater discharges from private property to natural stream systems (without entering the MS4)
- Areas with no public stormwater infrastructure
- Areas with individual, general, or industrial stormwater permits

Best Management Practices

The City of Portland's SWMP identifies measures, called best management practices (BMPs), to control stormwater pollution.

BMPs include approaches to keep pollutants out of stormwater (e.g., education programs, erosion control, protection and enhancement of natural areas and vegetation, street sweeping, materials storage and handling practices), as well as treatment facilities to remove pollutants from stormwater (e.g., grassy swales, wetland detention systems, and mechanical devices such as oil/water separators).

Each BMP includes specific tasks and measurable goals. The measurable goals define target levels of implementation for the BMP and are quantifiable where possible.

Measurable goals are targets, not fixed requirements, and as such have some flexibility (e.g., they may change as a result of adaptive management).

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The table below summarizes the City of Portland's eight BMP categories and the individual BMPs under each category. 1

BMP CATEGORY AND PURPOSE	BMPs
Public Involvement (PI) To inform and educate the public about the causes of stormwater pollution, the effects on local streams and rivers, and the need for stormwater management. To encourage active participation in pollution reduction efforts.	PI-1: Implement public information, education, involvement, and stewardship activities that will raise awareness, foster community stewardship, and promote pollution prevention and stormwater management.
Operations and Maintenance (OM) To implement operations and maintenance practices for public streets, sewers, and other facilities to reduce pollutants in discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system.	 OM-1: Operate and maintain components of the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to remove and prevent pollutants in discharges from the MS4. OM-2: Operate and maintain components of public rights-ofway, including streets, to remove and prevent pollutants in discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system. OM-3: Operate and maintain other city facilities and infrastructure (not included in OM-1 or OM-2) to remove and prevent pollutants in discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system.

¹ The city's previous SWMPs included monitoring BMPs to track and evaluate long-term water quality trends. For the third permit term, monitoring activities are provided in a separate monitoring plan; the SWMP therefore no longer includes monitoring BMPs.

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BMP CATEGORY AND PURPOSE	CITY OF PORTLAND BMPs
Industrial/Commercial Controls (IND) To reduce and control the discharge of pollutants from industrial and commercial facilities to the municipal separate storm sewer system.	 IND-1: Implement the Industrial Stormwater Management Program to control the discharge of pollutants from industrial and commercial facilities to the municipal separate storm sewer system. IND-2: Provide education and technical assistance to reduce industrial and commercial pollutant discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system.
Illicit Discharges Controls (ILL) To identify, investigate, and, if appropriate, control/eliminate illicit discharges and non- stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system.	ILL-1: Identify, investigate, control, and/or eliminate illicit discharges (illicit connections, illegal dumping, and spills) to the municipal separate storm sewer system. Evaluate and, if appropriate, control non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system.
New Development Standards (ND) To prevent and mitigate pollutant discharges and other water quality impacts associated with new development and redevelopment during and after construction.	 ND-1: Control erosion, sediment, and pollutant discharges from active construction sites. ND-2: Implement and refine stormwater management requirements for new development and redevelopment projects to minimize pollutant discharges and erosive stormwater flows.
Structural Controls (STR) To implement structural modifications (constructed facilities) to existing systems/development to reduce pollutants in discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system.	STR-1: Structurally modify components of the storm drainage system to reduce pollutant discharges. Implement structural retrofits/ improvements to existing development to reduce pollutants in discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system.
Natural Systems (NS) To help preserve and restore the natural resources and functions that prevent pollutants from entering into and discharging from the municipal separate storm sewer system.	NS-1: Protect and restore natural areas and vegetation to reduce pollutant discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system.
Program Management (PM) To ensure effective program management, coordination, and reporting.	PM-1: Conduct program management, coordination, and reporting.